

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-06 OES-09 AGRE-00 EB-08
COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANZ:FCBENNETT, JR:SJN
APPROVED BY EA/ANZ:FCBENNETT, JR
DHEW/FDA:JZAIC (PHONE)
OES/APT/ENP:WWALSH (INFO)

-----110177 050419Z /20

P 042108Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EFIS, AS

SUBJECT: REPORT OF POSSIBLY CONTAMINATED TINNED SALMON
SHIPPED TO BRISBANE

REF: BENNETT-SQUIRE TELECON OF 7/3/78

1. THIS IS TO CONFIRM REF TELECON RE SHIPMENT TO BRISBANE
OF U.S.-ORIGIN TINNED SALMON FROM SAME LOT THAT RESULTED
IN THE BOTULISM POISONING OF TWO ELDERLY COUPLES IN ENGLAND
JULY 31. FDA INTERNATIONAL DIVISION INFORMED AUSTRALIAN
EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND DEPT AUG 3 THAT 78 CASES AND 141
LOOSE TINS OF CANNED SALMON FROM THIS LOT WERE SHIPPED TO
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"JOHN WEST HOLDINGS" (BELIEVED TO BE A UNILEVER SUBSIDIARY)
IN BRISBANE. TINS WERE SHIPPED "BRIGHT" (I.E. WITHOUT
LABELS) BUT ARE "JOHN WEST" BRAND AS SOLD IN ENGLAND.
INDIVIDUAL TINS FROM THIS LOT CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY
FOLLOWING MARKING:

- RF7G

- F7145

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY REP SAID THAT HE WOULD INFORM DEPT OF HEALTH, CANBERRA, BY "FLASH" MESSAGE THAT SHIPMENT SHOULD

BE IMPOUNDED.

2. FYI. FDA HAS INSPECTED CANNING METHODS USED FOR THIS LOT AND HAS FOUND NO RPT NO DEFICIENCIES IN PROCESSING. ELDERLY COUPLES, WHO REPORTEDLY STILL IN CRITICAL CONDITION, ATE TUNA FROM SAME TIN. NO OTHER REPORTS OF POISONING HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. FDA CONCLUDES, THEREFORE, THAT POISONING RESULTED FROM PIN-HOLES FOUND IN OFFENDING TIN AND IT UNLIKELY REMAINDER OF LOT IS CONTAMINATED. BECAUSE THIS CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED WITH CERTAINTY, HOWEVER, ENTIRE LOT MUST BE IMPOUNDED.

3. ACTION. FDA REQUESTS THAT A MADE-UP CASE OF 48 CANS TAKEN TWO FROM EACH OF 24 INDIVIDUAL CASES BE AIR POUCHED TO EA/ANZ FOR FORWARDING TO FDA LAB. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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